## COLORADO MEDICAID RECEIVES \$26 MILLION

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DENVER – December 28, 2011 – The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing announced today that Colorado Medicaid will receive \$26,141,052 from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Colorado qualified for a Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act Performance Bonus for Federal Fiscal Year 2011.

The bonus award is recognition of Colorado's ongoing and strong efforts to identify and enroll eligible children in Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+).

In order to qualify for a Performance Bonus, states must, 1) have in place at least five Medicaid and CHIP program features known to promote enrollment and retention in health coverage for children; and 2) states must demonstrate a significant increase in Medicaid enrollment among children during the course of the federal fiscal year.

Colorado met five of the eight required program features:

- (1) The removal of the asset test for Medicaid eligibility;
- (2) The elimination of in-person interview requirements;
- (3) The use of one application for applying and renewing Medicaid and CHP+;
- (4) Presumptive Eligibility the ability for applicants who appear to be eligible to receive health care services while waiting for final eligibility determination; and
- (5) A premium assistance program, Health Insurance Buy-In, or HIBI, allowing families to receive subsidies for eligible Medicaid clients to purchase employer insurance.

"The Department has continued to make progress on increasing the number of insured children in Colorado," says Susan E. Birch, executive director. "This bonus is also recognition of the hard work our local county and community partners have done to reach eligible but not enrolled kids."

The Department received an initial bonus award last year of \$13,671,043 in December 2010 with a supplemental payment of \$4,532,320 in August 2011. Colorado will need to continue to implement at least five of eight program features and demonstrate an increase in Medicaid enrollment compared to a baseline in order to qualify for the performance bonus next year.

**About the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing**: The department administers the Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* programs as well as a variety of other programs for low-income families, children, pregnant women, the elderly and people with disabilities. The mission of the department is to improve access to cost-effective, quality health care services for Coloradans. For more information about the department, please visit Colorado.gov/hcpf.